



Briefing Meeting for Stakeholders on DEQ/AAC Freshwater Nutrient Criteria Development Efforts

**June 12, 2008
1:30 – 3:30 PM**

Stakeholder Organizations

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Blackwater Nottoway Riverkeeper Program
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Elizabeth River Project
- Ferrum College
- Friends of Claytor Lake
- Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
- James River Association
- Lake Anna Civic Association
- Lake Gaston Association
- Nature Conservancy of Virginia
- Northern VA Regional Commission
- Reston Association/NALMS
- Smith Mountain Lake Association
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Trout Unlimited, VA Council
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III:
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- VA Association of Counties
- VA Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies
- VA Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- VA Conservation Network
- VA Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- VA Dept of Conservation & Recreation
- VA Dept of Forestry
- VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries
- VA Dept of Health
- VA Dept of Mines, Minerals & Energy
- VA Farm Bureau
- VA Lakes & Watersheds Association
- VA Manufacturers Association
- VA Municipal League
- VA Poultry Federation
- VA State Dairymen's Association
- VA Save Our Streams

Status of Virginia Nutrient Criteria Development Program

Jean Gregory

VA DEQ

Virginia Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

- Water Body Specific (Estuary, Lakes & Reservoirs, Rivers & Streams)
- Three separate rulemakings (2002 - 2010)
- Preferred approach is effects based criteria for designated uses
- Involvement from Academic Advisory Committee, Stakeholders, Ad Hoc Committees, Staff, Other States, Public

Virginia Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

Submittal of draft plan to EPA Region III	October 31, 2002
Publication of the plan for public comment	November 4, 2002
Minor revisions and resubmittals at the request of EPA	2003/2004
EPA written concurrence of the March 2004 version <i>VA first state in EPA Region III to receive plan approval</i>	June 15, 2004
EPA acceptance of requested 2006 plan update	September, 2006

Academic Advisory Committee (AAC)

- Provides advice to DEQ staff
- Comprised of faculty from state universities
- DEQ requested assistance in developing freshwater nutrient criteria from the AAC
- Organized by Virginia Water Resources Research Center in 1998

VA Schedule for Adoption of Nutrient Criteria

Chesapeake Bay & Tidal Rivers	Effective Date: June 24, 2005
Lakes & Reservoirs	Effective Date August 14, 2007
Streams & Rivers	Expect to Start Regulatory Process in Second Half of 2009
Other Tidal Waters	Preliminary Work Begins in FY09

**Regulatory Process to Adopt Amendments to the Water
Quality Standards Regulation Takes 18 - 24 Months**

Streams & Rivers Nutrient Criteria

- Worked with Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) since 2003
- DEQ website contains several reports from 2004 – 2007 providing AAC analysis and recommendations

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqs/rule.html#NUT2>

Streams & Rivers Nutrient Criteria

AAC Recommendations:

1. Geographic approach to criteria development
 - Protect individual stream segments from impairment (localized component)
 - Protect downstream waters from nutrients contributed by upstream waters (downstream-loading component) – currently considering use of narrative criterion until criteria available from downstream states
2. Technical approach to criteria development
 - Use different approaches for localized components in wadeable and non-wadeable streams and rivers

Wadeable Streams & Rivers

- Current focus is piloting nutrient screening protocol
- Received funding from EPA for this project
- Status report today from Dr. Carl Zipper, VPI&SU

Non-Wadeable Streams & Rivers

- Current focus is verifying that ecological relationships can be demonstrated among selected fish community health metrics and selected measures of nutrient concentration and trophic status for streams and rivers
- In addition, exploring the use of phytoplankton pigments as indicators of nutrient impairment in rivers
- Status report today from Dr. Greg Garman, VCU

Questions?

